

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FISHERIES: POLISH POSITION ON ICNAF

REF: WARSAW 5126

FOLLOWING IS THE EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF
THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH POLISH MINISTER OF SHIPPING JERZY
SZOPA PRESENTED TO THE AMBASSADOR DURING THE MEETING
REPORTED REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT

AIDE MEMOIRE

QUOTE DURING THE SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHEREIS (ICNAF) WHICH TOOK
PLACE IN JANUARY 1973 IN ROME, THE UNITED STATES DELEGA-
TION PRESENTED A PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE SIZE OF FISHING
EFFORT IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL WATERS ADJOINING THE
TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (ICNAF SUB-AREA
5 AND STATISTICAL AREA 6). THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROPOSAL
WAS TO LIMIT SIGNIFICANTLY THE NUMBER OF VESSELS (OTHER
THAN THOSE OF THE COASTAL STATES) OPERATING IN THE
REGION DESCRIBED.

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QUOTE DURING THE MEETING OF ICNAF IN ROME AS WELL AS

DURING THE SPECIAL TECHNICAL MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE MOTION OF THE AMERICAN SIDE IN WOODS HOLE, USA, A NUMBER OF EXPERTS NOTED GREAT DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD OCCUR WITH RESPECT TO CONTROL IN CASE THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL WERE IMPLEMENTED.

QUOTE IT WOULD REQUIRE VERY COMPLICATED STANDARDIZATION OF FISHING VESSELS OF VARIOUS TYPES.

QUOTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE, THE MAJORITY OF EXPERTS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NEED IN THE AREA DISCUSSED FOR ADDITIONAL MEANS OF CONTROL OF FISHERIES, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE FISHING EFFORT CANNOT BE INTRODUCED IMMEDIATELY. PREPARATION OF THE SYSTEM OF CONTROL OF COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PROPOSAL REQUIRES FURTHER TIME.

QUOTE IN THIS SITUATION, THE POLISH SIDE, WHICH IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE VOLUME OF FISHERIES RESOURCES ON A GOOD LEVEL, HAS WITHDRAWN THIS YEAR THE MAJOR PORTION OF ITS FLEET FROM THE AREA UNDER DISCUSSION, IN ORDER TO MEET THE WISHES OF THE AMERICAN SIDE. THE REMAINING FLEET HAS BEEN ADAPTED TO A LARGE DEGREE FOR THE FISHING OF SQUID, WHOSE VOLUME OF RESOURCES DOES NOT CREATE SUCH CONCERN AS THOSE OF OTHER SPECIES OF FISH.

QUOTE WE HAVE ALSO LIMITED TO THE MINIMUM OUR FISHING FOR BOTTOM FISH, WHOSE RESOURCES GIVE CAUSE FOR THE GREATEST CONCERN.

QUOTE DURING THE LAST MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION MADE A NEW PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE GENERAL VOLUME OF CATCH OF ALL SPECIES IN THE AREA DISCUSSED.

QUOTE THE PROPOSALS OF THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, REFERRING TO THE AMOUNT OF THOSE LIMITS AS WELL AS THEIR DIVISION INTO NATIONAL QUOTAS, WERE VERY UNFAVOURABLE AND DECISIVELY HARMFUL FOR POLAND AS COMPARED WITH THE PROPOSALS FOR LIMITS FOR OTHER STATES.

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QUOTE PARTICULAR PROPOSALS PROVIDED FOR THE REDUCTION OF OUR FISHING FOR CA. 206,000 TONS OBTAINED IN 1972 TO THE LEVEL OF CA. 50 PERCENT OF THE QUOTA. THE WHOLE VOLUME OF POLISH FISHERIES IN THE AREA OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC WAS 267,000 TONS IN 1972. A REDUCTION OF THE FISHERIES OF THIS SIZE WOULD CREATE FOR OUR ECONOMY BASIC DIFFICULTIES OF ECONOMIC AND OF SOCIAL CHARACTER AS WELL. IN OUR VIEW THE VOLUME OF RESOURCES OF PELAGIC FISH, AND IN PARTICULAR

OF MACKEREL, DOES NOT REQUIRE SUCH DRASTIC LIMITATION OF FISHING. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THE FISHERMEN OF THE UNITED STATES ARE ONLY INTERESTED TO A SMALL DEGREE IN THE EXPLOITATION OF MACKEREL. REGRETFULLY, WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE GOOD WILL OF THE POLISH SIDE, WHICH ALREADY HAS VOLUNTARILY LIMITED THE VOLUME OF ITS FISHERIES AND INTRODUCED SELECTED FISHERIES, AND ALSO THE GOOD CO-OPERATION TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN POLAND AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WAS RENEWED THIS YEAR.

QUOTE IN THIS SITUATION THE POLISH DELEGATION COULD NOT AGREE TO THE COMPLETELY NEW PROPOSALS OF THE UNITED STATES, HAVING NO APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE HAD NOT MADE THEIR NEW PROPOSALS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE PERIOD OF PRIOR NOTICE PROVIDED FOR BY THE REGULATIONS OF ICNAF.

QUOTE THIS POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION LED TO THE RECOGNIZED IMPASSE IN THE SESSIONS OF ICNAF.

QUOTE IN THE VIEW OF THE POLISH SIDE, THIS ORGANIZATION HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISHING RESOURCES AND, PARTICULARLY IN RECENT TIMES, HAS TAKEN DECISIONS VERY QUICKLY, EVEN INTRODUCING THE SO-CALLED PROTECTIVE LIMITS IN CASES WHERE THE LEVEL OF RESOURCES WAS GOOD AND DID NOT CREATE CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

QUOTE WE ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT ALL THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS RELATING TO THE SELECTION OF THE BEST MEANS OF REGULATING FISHERIES SHOULD BE SOLVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ICNAF, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS GOOD AND LONG-UNCLASSIFIED

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STANDING TRADITIONS IN MULTILATERAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

QUOTE IT WOULD BE A PITY IF ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE TIES CREATED BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE STATES PARTICIPATING IN THIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE ABANDONED.

QUOTE THE POLISH SIDE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROPOSE DURING THE COMING SESSION OF ICNAF IN OTTAWA A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION, WHOSE ACCEPTANCE WOULD NOT CAUSE DRASTIC LIMITATIONS OF OUR FISHERIES IN THE AREA DISCUSSED. WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN THE INTEREST OF THE RATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHING RESOURCES, THE POLISH SIDE EXPRESSES ITS

WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE ENDEAVORS AIMED TOWARD THEIR
PROPER PROTECTION.

QUOTE ACCEPTING FOR OUR INFORMATION THE CONTENTS OF THE
LETTER OF THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P.
ROGERS OF AUGUST 27, 1973, WE SHOULD LIKE TO REMARK THAT
THE POLISH DELEGATION SHALL CONTINUE TO ACT IN ICNAF IN
THE SPIRIT OF THE RATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHING RESOURCES
OF THIS REGION.

QUOTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1973, WE WOULD LIKE TO
STATE THAT THE POLISH SIDE IS CAREFULLY STUDYING THE
CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT.

WARSAW, SEPTEMBER 22, 1973. UNQUOTE

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